

The Roanoke Beacon

\$1.00 a Year in Advance

"FOR GOD, FOR COUNTRY AND FOR TRUTH."

Single Copies, 5 Cts

VOL. XXVIII.

PLYMOUTH, N. C., FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1918

NO.

WILSON BEGINS READJUSTMENT

PRESIDENT COMPLETES REORGANIZATION OF THE AIR SERVICE OF ARMY.

UNDER THE OVERMAN ACT

Executive Order Directs That Air Service Be Wholly Divorced From Signal Corps.

Washington.—Reorganization of the army air service has been completed by President Wilson as his first act under the new law permitting him to readjust government departments for the war. In an executive order, he directed that the air service be wholly divorced from the signal corps and also that the functions of producing and operating aircraft of all kinds in the military service be separated.

The order formally creates a bureau of aircraft production, described as an executive agency which shall exercise full, complete and exclusive jurisdiction and control over the production of airplanes, airplane engines and aircraft equipment for the use of the army, under a director of aircraft production who shall also be chairman of the aircraft board. This gives full legal status and power to John D. Ryan, recently appointed director of aircraft production who shall also be chairman of the aircraft board, and the order transfers to him all funds, lands, buildings and personnel of the signal corps having to do with aircraft production.

Similarly, the position of director of military aeronautics now held by Major General William L. Kenly is formally established and all funds, duties, equipment and personnel of the signal corps connected with the operation of aircraft and balloons and with the training of aviators placed under his direction. The signal corps reverts to its old functions having to do only with army signalling and the transmission of military information.

In connection with the reorganization, made at a time when the department of justice is undertaking at the direction of the President an investigation of charges brought against the honesty and loyalty of men heretofore in full control of the air program, Secretary Baker directed that Col. R. L. Montgomery, E. A. Deeds and S. D. Waldon, of the signal corps, be detached from all other duties and assigned to assist the attorney general in his inquiry. As the men are directly in charge of production, the three officers have personal knowledge of every phase of the subject.

GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED PRESS ALSO PESSIMISTIC

Washington. — Announcement that the bread ration is to be reduced on June 15 has caused grave apprehension throughout Germany. An official dispatch from Switzerland says that even the governmental press has adopted a tone of less pessimistic than that of the socialist papers, which foresee a great diminishing of the physical and general force which helps in supporting the hardships of the fourth year of the war.

Even more critical than the German food situation is that in Austria. An official dispatch from France quotes Austro-German newspapers as saying that at a recent conference in Vienna on the situation it developed that food supplies to be requisitioned were sufficient only to feed Hungary and the army and that Austria could expect nothing but its own harvest.

Germany's purpose in announcing to the world through its official wireless the reduction of the bread ration for its population was widely discussed here. Some officials conclude that the German government, knowing that the news would reach its enemies, decided to anticipate it with the purpose of showing the willingness of the German people to make any sacrifices to win the war.

SINN FEIN DELEGATE ASSAILS AMERICANS

Dublin.—A Sinn Fein delegate called on the American mission, representing the American labor delegation now in England, endeavored to create a scene in the hotel lobby by declaring loudly that Americans were not treating the Sinn Fein fairly. The members of the American mission replied that they would be glad to listen to all sides and that they proposed to view the Irish question without prejudice.

CAPTAIN KOENIG



Captain Koenig, late commander of an interned German merchantman and a reserve officer in the Imperial German navy, has been put to work by Uncle Sam. He is one of a gang of prisoners who are "making little ones out of big ones." Under heavy guard the men are busy breaking stones and building dams.

EXPLAINS THE SIXTUS LETTER

NO FAIR AND HONORABLE PEACE HAS YET BEEN PROPOSED, SAYS SEC'Y BALFOUR.

President Wilson May Soon Comment on Balfour's Statement in This Connection.

London.—The British secretary for foreign affairs, Arthur J. Balfour, in giving explanations in the house of commons in connection with Emperor Charles' letter to Prince Sixtus of Bourbon, recently made public by the President of the French republic, declared that no effort at conversations has ever been made by the central powers in the interest of a fair and honorable peace, and he added:

"If any representative of any belligerent country desires seriously to lay before us any proposals, we are ready to listen to them."

The letter in question had been examined by a committee of the French chamber, said Mr. Balfour, and the conclusion reached was that it did not provide an adequate or satisfactory basis for an honorable peace.

Mr. Balfour in his explanations was replying to questions submitted by the Rt. Hon. Walter Runciman, former president of the board of trade, who asked whether, when Emperor Charles' letter was communicated to the French government, and by the French government to the British prime minister, it was communicated to any other of the allies; had the American government any information as to what was passing? Did the prime minister inform the foreign office at the time of the fact that the communication had been shown to him? Why were the negotiations dropped—was it on purely territorial grounds; was it because a demand was made by France not only for Alsace-Lorraine but for the 1814 line, or even the 1790 line?

Mr. Balfour explained that he had no secrets from President Wilson. He was in America at the time and had not gone very thoroughly into the matter. The letter, however, had been conveyed by Prince Sixtus to President Poincaré and the strictest secrecy. Only the British sovereign and premier were to see it. Therefore, it was not communicated to the President of the United States and the American government was at the time no better informed of the facts regarding the letter than he was.

Washington.—Either through a public address or a diplomatic note President Wilson in the near future may take occasion to comment upon and supplement the statement made by Foreign Minister Balfour in the British house of commons in connection with the Austrian peace feelers through Prince Sixtus of Bourbon.

"SUPER-WHEAT" HAS BEEN EVOLVED BY L. BURANK

Santa Rosa, Cal.—A "super-wheat," containing 14 per cent gluten, has been evolved by Luther Burbank, the California horticulturist, after experiments extending over 11 years, it was announced here.

The wheat may be grown from Hudson Bay to Patagonia. The new wheat is said to be of the winter variety, hardy and producing a white flour.

56 KNOWN DEAD 31 ARE MISSING

AS A RESULT OF NINE EXPLOSIONS THAT WRECKED CHEMICAL PLANT.

CHINA GROVE N.C. MAN KILLED

Remnants of Human Bodies Brought Out From the Debris Throughout Day After Explosion.

Pittsburg. — Fifty-six men are known to be dead, 31 injured in hospitals and 31 employees of the Aetna Chemical Company, are missing as a result of the nine explosions that wrecked this company's explosive manufacturing plant at Oakdale, 16 miles from this city. This report is the result of the day's investigation by state, federal, county and city officials, and of the work of scores of men under the direction of Coroner Samuel C. Jamieson.

Throughout the night and all day men were extinguishing small fires in the debris and were bringing out remnants of human bodies, legs and arms hands with finger rings on them and, in some instances, only the incinerated torsos were found. In most cases there was nothing to indicate the identity of the victim. These gruesome recoveries were carried to the temporary morgue where opportunity to view them was given any one that might have lost friend or relative in the disaster.

While earlier explosions wrecked the plant, the last one, about 6:20, scattered debris over more acreage than before and blackening every piece of metal or timber as well as anything human beyond recognition.

All day a blue-brown smoke continued to hang over the ruins considerably impeding the work of the searchers. Its deadly fumes are feared by the residents of the community and only when a slight breeze would lift the smoke would searchers be able to get close to the various piles of debris. For a time the work was impeded further by the thousands of sight-seers that flocked to the scene from the surrounding country. A company of the state constabulary was rushed in automobiles from Greensburg to establish a greater cordon about the scene of the disaster. The crowds and automobiles were turned back when they had reached within five miles of Oakdale. Only those having business or the officials were admitted past the guards.

Thousands of persons streamed into the temporary morgue all day to view the gruesome finds from the ruins and it took a special detail of police to keep this morbid element in check. Some identifications were made. Pitiful, sad scenes were on every hand.

POSTMASTER GENERAL SAYS TEDDY WAS MISLEADING.

Washington. — Postmaster General Burleson issued a statement asserting that Colonel Roosevelt evaded the issue and was misleading in his "preliminary" reply to the demand that he prove his charge that the administration was punishing publications which upheld the war but told the truth about administration failures, while it failed to proceed against those who opposed the war or attacked the allies but defended inefficiency.

"Mr. Roosevelt's reply of May 11 which he termed 'preliminary,'" said Mr. Burleson, "in the main evades the issue presented and is thoroughly misleading. He names The New York Tribune, Collier's and The Metropolitan Magazine in a way which creates the impression that these publications have been the objects of improper discrimination by the postoffice department."

"This department has taken no action against Collier's."

"This department has taken no action against The Tribune."

"The department has taken no action against The Metropolitan Magazine."

NAMES 13 MORE NEW TORPEDOBOAT DESTROYERS.

Washington.—Secretary Daniels announced that he had named 13 more new torpedo-boat destroyers in memory of men of the navy who won distinction through heroic conduct. Among them the Anthony is named in memory of Sergeant Major William Anthony, of the marine corps, who distinguished himself when the Maine was blown up in Havana harbor and the Edwards for Midshipman W. F. Edwards, of Petersburg, Va.

LIEUT. GEORGES FLACHAIRE



Lieut. Georges Flachaire (left), a French "ace" with seven German planes to his credit, and Maj. Gen. George O. Squier in Potomac park, Washington. Lieutenant Flachaire, who has had an experience of two and a half years at the front, has been showing the capital the paces of a one-passenger battleplane, whose normal speed is 150 miles an hour.

GEN. FOCH STILL SUPREME

ALLIED TROOPS, AS PROCESS OF BRIGADING ON WEST FRONT PROCEEDS.

When Americans Predominate in Brigaded Divisions, Pershing Will Command Them.

Washington. — General Pershing probably soon will be commanding French and British troops as the process of brigading American units with the allies on the western front goes forward.

As if exemplifying the unity of command and action into which the United States and its co-belligerents have entered, it became known here that whenever American troops predominate in the brigaded divisions as the process goes on, these divisions, under present plans, will be turned over to General Pershing's command.

This plan would accomplish several things which the military authorities consulting upon it regard as very desirable. It would rapidly increase the size of the American fighting command on the battlefield, it would contribute tremendously to the spirit of unity and concerted effort, and at the same time instead of holding large numbers of American troops behind the line while training, would surround them with seasoned veterans and under actual battle conditions school them to be re-brigaded later with fresh American troops coming to France. In this way, the efficiency of the British and French forces is expected to be increased and the work of building up a great, fully trained and completely equipped fighting force in France hastened.

In addition to this, as illustrative of the unity of command under which Generalissimo Foch directs all the allied armies, it was stated officially here that Foch commands the Italian troops in Italy as fully as he does the American, British and French troops in France and Belgium. There has been no question that Foch commanded the Italian troops in France and it had been supposed that, considering the Italian front as part of the western battlefield under a decision reached at the Versailles conference, the generalissimo's authority extended there.

For the first time, however, it was stated unreservedly that General Foch's supreme command extended to Italy.

S. C. NEGRO SOLDIER CHARGED WITH MURDER

New York.—Private James Layton, a negro soldier who was drafted from Rion, S. C., in training at Camp Upton, was locked up in the Tombs charged with the murder of Private Michael Maloney and Mrs. J. Harriety of Brooklyn at the cantonment on May 5. The police say Layton has confessed he killed Maloney when he came to the rescue of Mrs. Harriety, whom the negro had attacked.

STARS AND STRIPES NOW IN FLANDERS

AMERICAN TROOPS ARE BRIGADED WITH BRITISH ON THIS MOST IMPORTANT SECTOR.

BETWEEN HUN AND THE PORTS

Less Than Two Months Required to Get Them Across and into Position.

American troops are awaiting the time when they will be thrown into battle on an entirely new part of the battlefield in France. The announcement that the Stars and Stripes are waving with the British Union Jack and the French Tri-Color on this battlefield and that the Americans were "completing their training in the area occupied by the troops which are blocking the path of the Germans to the channel ports," which may indicate that somewhere along the line from Merville to Ypres is the point where General Pershing's men will once more strike the Germans.

This is the fifth section of the front where Americans have been located. The others are east of Luneville, northwest of Toul, north of St. Mihiel and on the heights of the Meuse, and in the Montdidier sector of the Picardy battle area.

How many Americans are behind the British front, when they arrived and the part of the United States from which they came, are as yet unknown. It is probable that they are not to be used as a separate unit but will be brigaded with the British in meeting the next stroke of the Germans in the northern battlefield.

THIRD LIBERTY LOAN TOTAL IS \$4,170,019,650

Washington.—The total of the third Liberty loan is \$4,170,019,650, an over-subscription of 39 per cent above the \$3,000,000,000 minimum sought. The number of subscriptions was about 17,000,000. Every federal reserve district over-subscribed, the New York district to 124 per cent, being the lowest.

"This is the most successful loan the United States has offered, both in number of subscribers and in the amount realized," said Secretary McAdoo in a statement. "Every subscription was made with the full knowledge that allotment in full was to be expected, unlike the first loan, when allotments were limited to \$2,000,000,000 and the second loan, when allotments were limited to one-half the over-subscriptions. I congratulate the country on this wonderful result which is irrefutable evidence of the strength, patriotism and determination of the American people."

Total subscriptions to the second loan were \$4,616,000,000 and the amount accepted was \$3,808,000,000. Pledges to the first loan ran above 3,000,000,000 but the loan was limited to \$2,000,000. Subscribers to the second loan numbered about 9,500,000 and to the first loan about 4,500,000.

The feat of the Atlantic district, standing fourth in the final percentage list, was the topic of favorable comment about the treasury.

AT NEW YORK TO OPEN BIG RED CROSS DRIVE

New York.—President Wilson came to New York to review the great Red Cross parade and to open the Red Cross drive for a \$100,000,000 war fund. He was met at the station by Colonel and Mrs. Edward M. House at whose home he and Mrs. Wilson dined before going to a theater.

Although the time of the President's arrival was unannounced, thousands of persons at the station and on the street leading to the hotel at which he stopped recognized him and cheered as he passed. Later in the day crowds homeward bound from the downtown district gave him an ovation when with Colonel House and Mrs. Wilson he went to a 15-minute ride through the city.

DR. JOHNSON IS ON TRIAL IN RICHMOND

Richmond, Va.—Following the testimony of Miss Mildred Taylor, chum of Mrs. Alice Johnson, the girl bride of Dr. Lemuel Johnson, Middlesex, N. C., dentist now on trial for the murder of his wife here last December, Dr. J. M. Whitfield, city coroner, testified that he had made an analysis of the dead girl's stomach and found it to contain two-tenths of a grain of poison.

AMERICAN SECTOR IS

CORRECT VAGRANCY SAYS THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR ASKS COUNTIES HOLD MEETINGS TO DISCUSS PROBLEM MAY 29.

DELEGATES TO STATE MEET

Governor Bickett's idea is to Vagrancy Rather Than to Punish

Raleigh.—With the increasing vagrancy rather than punishing vagrants, Governor Bickett issued a proclamation calling counties of North Carolina meetings on Wednesday, May 29, to discuss the problem and to appoint delegates to a State convention to be held in Raleigh, Tuesday, June 4.

Governor Bickett wants it to be understood that wherever an able-bodied man is arrested under the vagrancy laws and will make it clear to that he is ready to go to work and keep working, he will be given an opportunity to do so.

The Federal government is vitally interested in this matter and an act was recently in Raleigh where the matter of a special session of the legislature to provide vagrancy legislation was broached. General opposition met the suggestion, but it was conceded that some corrective step should be taken to remedy a situation admittedly bad.

Governor's Proclamation.

Governor Bickett's proclamation reads:

"Never before in the history of North Carolina has it been of such supreme importance to bring together the jobless man and the manless land. The agricultural, commercial and industrial life of the State depends on the utilization of its fullest capacity of every labor unit that can be found. At this time idleness is a crime that savors strongly of treason, for the man at home work."

"To this end I call on every county in North Carolina to hold a session on Wednesday, May 29th, for the purpose of discussing the best methods of enforcing our vagrancy laws, of establishing employment bureaus and appointing delegates to a State convention to be held in Raleigh on Tuesday, June 4, 1918, for the purpose of discussing these subjects. The Federal government is vitally interested in this matter, and its representatives are prepared to give valuable assistance in the solution of the grave labor problem that confronts the State."

"T. W. BICKETT, Governor."

"By the Governor: Sanford Martin, Private Sec'y."

For Drafting Doctors.

Raleigh.—The Medical Optional Selective Draft Commission was created by Governor Bickett in pursuance of a petition from the North Carolina Medical Society which at its last meeting in Pinehurst adopted resolutions to apply the draft to the enlistment of medical men in the service. On that commission Governor Bickett appointed Dr. Cyrus W. Thompson, of Jacksonville; Dr. A. W. Knox, of Raleigh; Dr. M. L. Stevens, Asheville; Dr. F. R. Harris, Henderson; Dr. R. F. Yarborough, Louisville. The commission is called to meet in Raleigh May 22 for the purpose of organizing and drafting rules and regulations for the work.

The Medical Society at its meeting in Pinehurst unanimously adopted resolutions placing its entire membership in the State under the provisions of the selective draft. In this, it anticipated the United States Government and led all the States. Three hundred and forty-five members of Medical Society have already joined the colors. In some communities burden has fallen with particular verity upon the physicians who maintain. It is the purpose of the selective draft for the medical men to prevent hardships either upon the physicians and upon the communities they serve.

Expell Trinity College.

Special from Washington.—The United States Department of Justice has issued a writ of habeas corpus for the release of the members of the Trinity College, N. C., Council, sequen the N. C. boro face